



Volunteer Mountain Hare Survey Interim Report: Update from the Mammal Society

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Introduction

This document is an interim report, presenting the current coverage and some initial findings of the Volunteer Mountain Hare Survey (VMHS) up to the 21 October 2021. However, please be aware that these results are preliminary and the numbers and results are likely to change as data are added to, cleaned and double checked. It must also be noted that none of the sightings presented in this report have been verified. It is therefore imperative that this report and any of the information contained within it are not referenced and that the report should be used for information purposes only.

Completed transect information

Since the 22nd of March 2021 there have been **193** VMHS associated transects conducted across Scotland (see figure below), with **85** HARE_RAMBLE, **90** HARE_SQUARE and **18** HARE_ONLY transects already recorded. The amount of effort (km of transects walked) covered by these transects is **898.1** in total with **154** km from HARE_SQUAREs, **505.6** km from HARE_RAMBLEs and **238.5** km from HARE_ONLY transects.

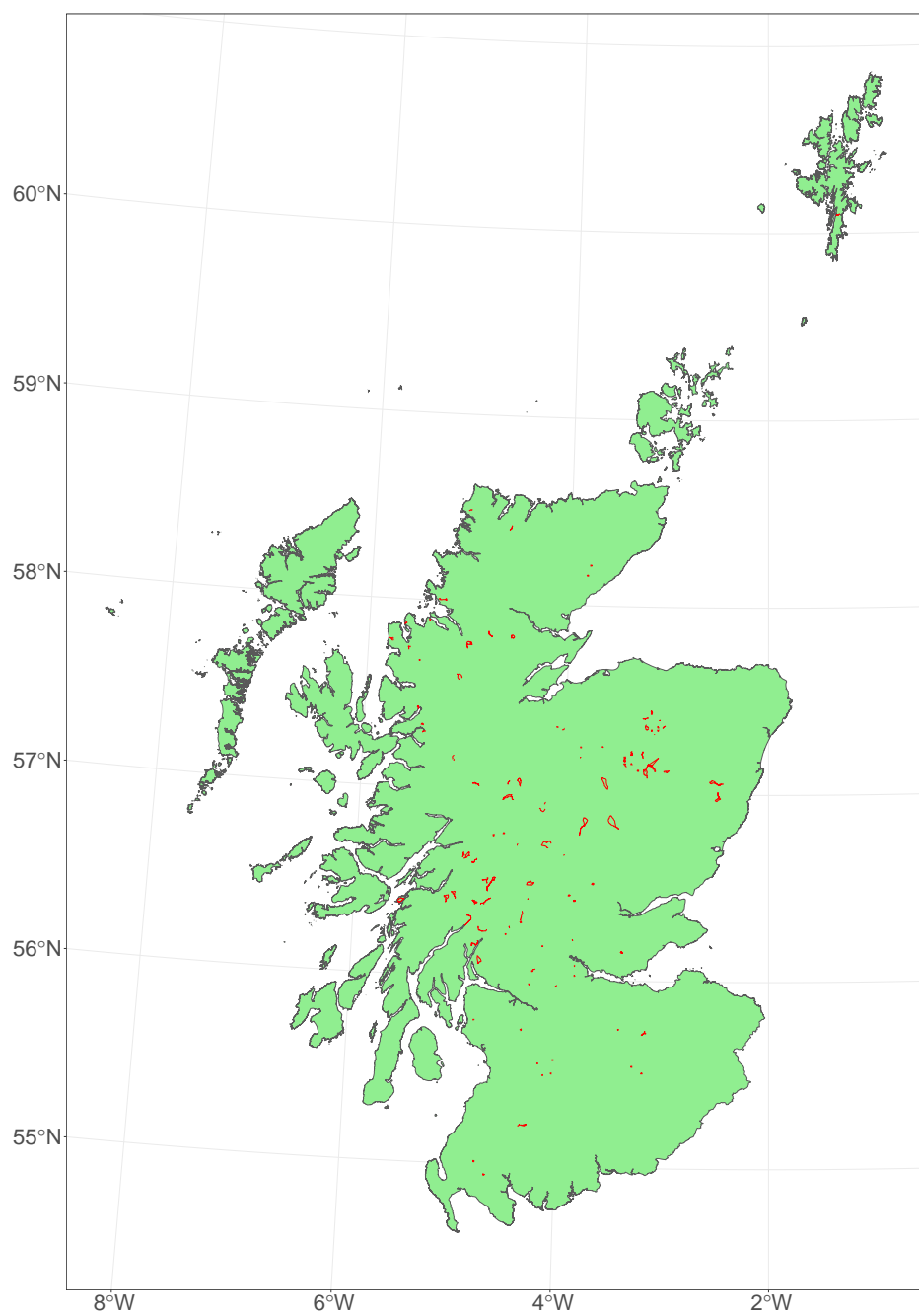


Figure 1: The spatial distribution of all HARE_SQUARE, HARE_RAMBLE AND HARE_ONLY transects (red lines) combined

Gridded Survey data

To date **175 (4.3%)** 5 km Ordnance Survey Nation Grid squares (ESPG:27700) across Scotland have been reported as being surveyed as part of the VMHS. Of these grid squares that have been surveyed **37** have recorded mountain hare presence.

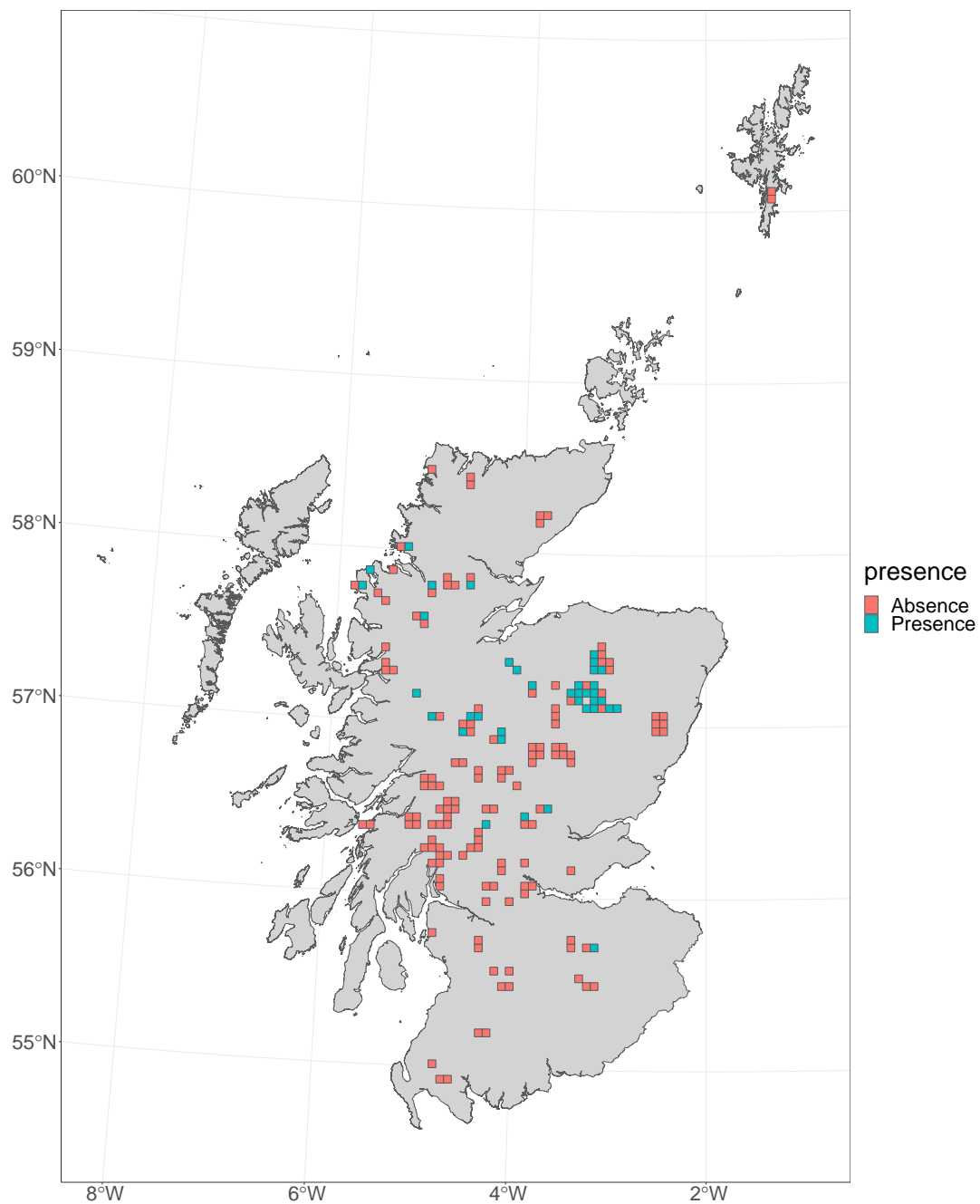


Figure 2: The spatial distribution of the effort associated 5 x 5km grid squares with mountain hare recorded presence and absence

Unstructured records of mountain hares from Scotland

Opportunistic records of mountain hares, i.e. species presence points not associated with a VMHS transect, have also been reported through the Mammal Society's Mammal Mapper App.

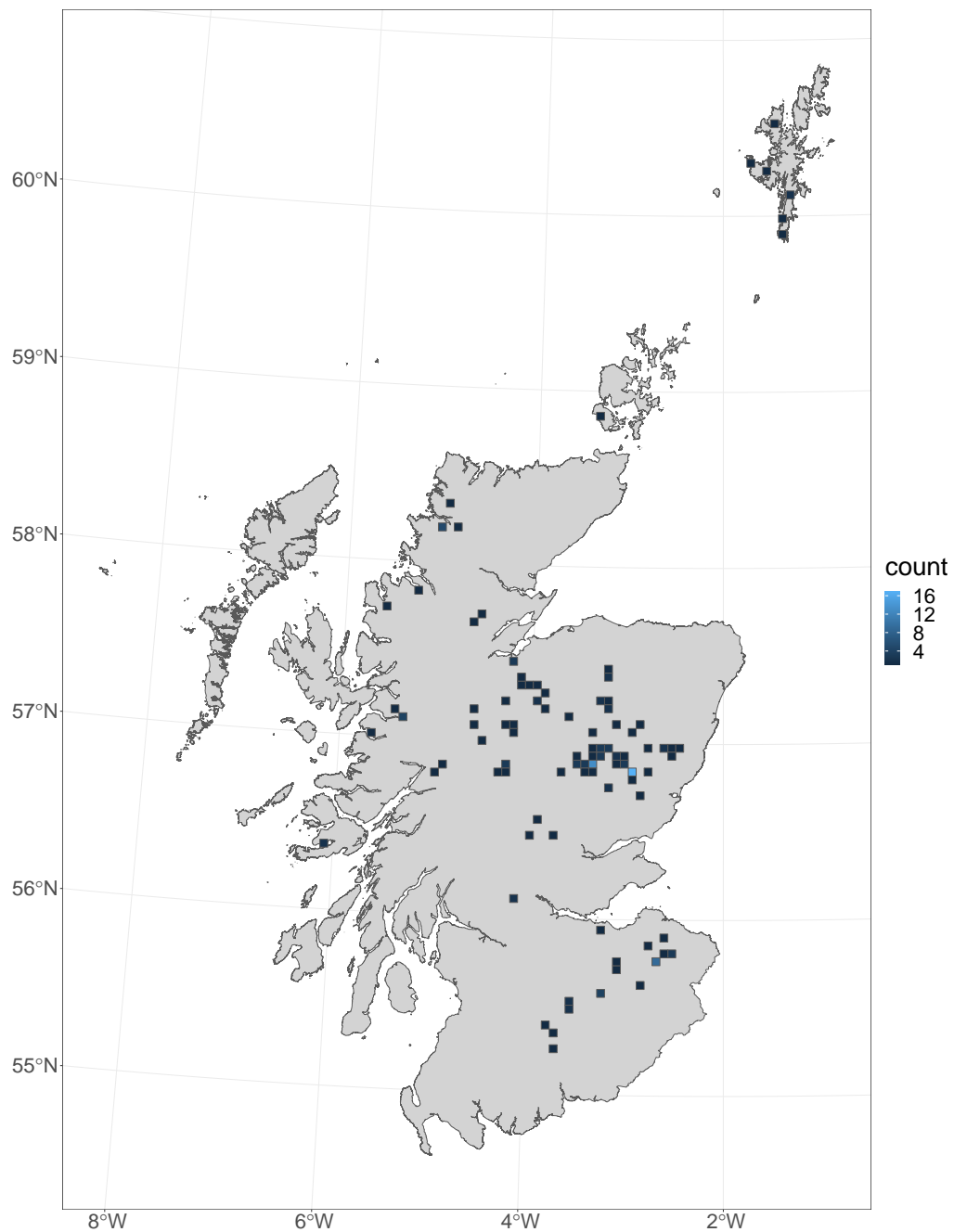


Figure 3: The distribution and number of opportunistic mountain hare sightings within the 5 x 5km grid squares

This interim report has presented the current distribution of survey effort throughout Scotland. However, the VMHS will continue to run until March 2022 and continued surveying to increase this coverage, and in turn our knowledge about the current state of mountain hares, would be greatly appreciated.

To find out more information about the survey and how to get involved please see the follow [link](#).

For a downloadable printable summary of instructions, please see the following [link](#).

If you have seen and wish to report a mountain hare sighting please use the Mammal Society's free [Mammal Mapper App](#) to report your sighting.

The Volunteer Mountain Hare Project is a collaborative project involving NatureScot, Mammal Society, British Trust for Ornithology, Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust and The James Hutton Institute.

